



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration:
Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System



VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System Partnering with CHI Health to Develop New Veterans Community Living Center at Midlands

OMAHA, Neb. – The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System and CHI Health conducted a joint news conference at CHI Health Midlands on April 29 at 1 p.m. to announce an agreement to open a new Veterans Community Living Center (CLC) at the Papillion, Nebraska, hospital. It is believed that the agreement marks one of the first times the VA has partnered with a local medical health care system to lease space within a private hospital to develop and operate a Veterans CLC.

When completed, the CLC will offer significant support to Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa Veterans through a 30,000-square foot, 34-bed facility designed to provide short-stay rehabilitation, skilled-nursing care and memory care.

“We are excited to open this new chapter of providing outstanding care for our area Veterans by joining in this new innovative partnership with CHI Health and Midlands,” said B. Don Burman, director of VA NWIHCS. “When this new Community Living Center is completed, it will provide a needed medical facility for eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa Veterans who currently must be relocated more than 100 miles away from families and loved ones to receive critical medical care following acute stays at our Omaha medical facility. By partnering with CHI Health and Midlands, area Veterans will now be able to receive this needed care much closer to their homes, while also opening up additional spaces for Veterans from central and western Nebraska in our current CLC in Grand Island.”

“CHI Health and Midlands are honored to be partnering with the Department of Veterans Affairs on this project to provide greater access to essential care for our Veterans,” said Kevin Miller, MBA, RRT, president of CHI Health Midlands. “It is part of CHI Health’s mission to improve the health of the people we serve, and through this project, we are able to help provide necessary care for the brave men and women who served our country. We are excited to see the 5th and 6th floor of Midlands transform into a comforting, inviting space for our Veterans.”

The agreement calls for approximately \$11 million of tenant improvements to two current floors within Midlands hospital followed by a 10-year lease between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and CHI Health. In addition to the living space, CHI Health is adding an outdoor healing garden for veterans and patients to enjoy. Work will begin on the garden this spring. Officials are hopeful to begin placing Veterans within the new CLC by late 2021 or early 2022.